United Nations E/2016/SR.43

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 August 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
High-level segment

Summary record of the 43rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 22 July 2016, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Jürgenson (Vice-President) ..... (Estonia)
later: Mr. Oh Joon ..... (Republic of Korea)

Contents

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*)

(c) Development Cooperation Forum (*continued*)

Session VI "Development cooperation perspectives on capacity-building and the role of technology development and facilitation in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals"

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*)

Closing of the segment

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-12765 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr Jürgenson (Estonia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*)

(c) Development Cooperation Forum (E/2016/65) (*continued*)

Session VI "Development cooperation perspectives on capacity-building and the role of technology development and facilitation in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals"

1. **Ms. Al Awar** (Secretary General, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment), delivering the keynote address, said that the United Arab Emirates, which held a unique position as a developing country and a major donor, was proud to have been one of the world's two largest donor countries for the previous two consecutive years. Its experience had shown how critical development cooperation was for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and how much countries could gain from one another, in particular through joint innovation.

2. The International Foundation for the Environment, which had been established in 1999, was honoured to be hosting the Global South-South Development Expo 2016 at the end of October, which was the first such event since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and would showcase innovative development solutions from public and private stakeholders. Its theme concerned innovations for the 2030 Agenda and the focus would be on capacity-building and innovation, the defining features of the transformative change experienced by the United Arab Emirates since 1971.

3. As part of its development, her country had invested greatly in capacity-building for women and girls. More women now graduated from universities than men, measures reinforcing women's role in the workplace had been established, and inclusiveness of women had become an important consideration in national policy and development cooperation. A gender balance council had been established earlier in the year and an agreement with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women had been signed the previous week to launch the first liaison office for Gulf countries in Abu Dhabi.

4. It was recognized in her country that capacity-building to mobilize resources for development presented the most cost-effective means of implementation. As a result of capacity-building activities in the renewable energy industry and engagement with international partners and open, competitive tenders, the policy framework for investment in solar power had been so well designed that costs had been reduced dramatically, making solar power the cheapest source of electricity.

5. Her country also recognized the importance of capacity-building for monitoring and review to ensure meaningful follow-up, and had invested heavily in training and international partnerships in order to track development progress. Organizations such as the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority and the State Audit Institution played a critical role, as did environmental regulators, in providing an objective assessment of effectiveness and identifying the steps necessary for improvement.

6. She concluded her presentation by providing further information on the tools and smart applications used by the Foundation for the sharing of best practices and initiatives in support of sustainable development. She also gave further details concerning the Zayed International Prize for the Environment and the Emirates Appreciation Award, and noted that the Foundation was launching a young scientists award for environmental sustainability.

7. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme), moderator, said that failure to address the issue of uneven access to science, technology and innovation would result in someone being left behind. He asked how development cooperation could help in scaling up long-term capacity at all levels, including on domestic resource mobilization, policy coherence for sustainable development, and data and statistics for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. He also asked how development cooperation, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, could best contribute to facilitating science, technology and innovation, including information and communication technologies, in implementing the Goals.

8. **Mr. Syihab** (Deputy Director of Economic Development and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia), panellist, said that partnership was an essential element in capacity-building and technology development. Partnerships must be open, transparent and inclusive for all countries, and involve non-governmental stakeholders, whose roles and responsibilities were clearly defined. They should make a transformative difference to development, be coherent, and take into account the need for national ownership that would stimulate domestic resource mobilization. Mechanisms for monitoring and measuring progress must also be provided.

9. A needs-based assessment approach was crucial for improving further technology cooperation and capacity-building. If technology development was to become a catalyst for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, joint research and development should be encouraged and the policy for research and innovation strengthened, particularly in developing countries. Consideration should also be given to the intellectual property rights regime, with a view to promoting wider access to technology and innovation, particularly in developing countries. Indonesia, which sought to increase its role in South-South cooperation, had already mainstreamed such cooperation in its midterm national development plan. A national coordination team had been established with a view to creating a single agency for South-South and triangular cooperation.

10. Three flagship programmes for South-South cooperation had also been identified to address such matters as development issues, good governance and peacebuilding, and economic issues. With regard to policy recommendations, all development cooperation agencies should align their vision and resource allocation with the Sustainable Development Goals, including by mapping priorities and identifying those furthest behind. Incentive models should also be developed for stakeholders. Public financing should remain the major source of financing in the attainment of the Goals, and domestic resource mobilization should be further pursued with a view to ensuring the availability of sustainable financing. Private sector investment and corporate social responsibility programmes should also be taken into consideration.

11. **Ms. Bárcena** (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), panellist, said that against a background of global recessionary bias, the decoupling of the financial sector from the real economy, insufficient investment and increasing inequalities, business as usual was not an option. The world was facing changes that were historic in size, speed and scope, and the extent to which society embraced technological innovation would be a major determinant of progress. While the unprecedented technological revolution could offer many opportunities for sustainability, it might create global tensions, including with regard to the future of work. Leadership at the national, regional and global levels and understanding of the changes across all sectors were required to ensure that no one was left behind, and would help to mitigate global instability and security challenges.

12. If developing countries were to benefit from the convergence of technologies across a variety of domains and the technological breakthroughs that were reshaping patterns of production and consumption, the technological revolution must be properly managed; governance of technology was essential. The supply-side challenges of the on-demand economy would have to be addressed. To that end, collective action and the cooperation of stakeholders, Governments and businesses must be enhanced. A new form of Keynesianism led by the developed countries must be established to expand aggregate demand, transfer green technologies to developing countries and redesign regulatory frameworks to support innovation and green taxation. Efforts were needed to move away from extractivism and ensure that technology transfer could play a role in promoting new forms of production. South-South cooperation was possible and feasible, as experience in Asia had shown.

13. National initiatives, while beneficial, were not sufficient, and a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development had been established to bring together information on regional initiatives. Countries in the region were advocating the creation of a common digital market, a financial fund for technology transfer, and capacity-building for national statistical institutes. New ways of thinking and efforts to integrate data and technological ecosystems must also be encouraged.

14. **Mr. Acharya** (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), panellist, recalled that, at the Development Cooperation Forum high-level

symposium in Brussels, participants had clearly articulated the need for development cooperation to be focused more on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other vulnerable countries where human and income capacity was limited and a large part of the population lived below the poverty line. Despite decades of effort, those countries remained highly dependent on official development assistance (ODA), and a huge effort would be required if they were to build the capacity to develop a strategy for an integrated approach to sustainable development.

15. In addition, the capacity of those countries for domestic resource mobilization, which was often made a focus in enabling countries to contribute to economic development, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, was very limited.

16. Efforts would have to be made to develop the capacity of those countries to direct development cooperation and reallocate some resources towards the productive sector. Steps would also have to be taken to address challenges in tax policy and administration, including in improving tax compliance, to enhance the capacity to use available resources.

17. While technology could play a highly significant role in the ambitious agenda, the least developed countries had very limited capacity for technology development. They were heavily dependent on outside technologies, and encountered difficulties in technology transfer for economic development and resilience building. In addition to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, a technology bank for the least development countries was being established with a view to fostering the transfer of appropriate technologies to those countries, developing the science, technology and information capacity in those countries and identifying ways of reducing costs through the building of institutional linkages. Strong North-South and South-South development cooperation in the area of technology was essential for achieving ambitious development goals, including poverty eradication in countries in special situations, which was essential.

18. **Mr. Lewis** (Assistant Director, Institute for Capacity Development, International Monetary Fund (IMF)), panellist, said that almost one third of IMF activities were in the area of capacity development and sought to strengthen institutions that supported sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. IMF was particularly active in mobilizing domestic resources in support of development, conducting work in such areas as tax policy and administration and the development of diagnostic tools.

19. The Development Cooperation Forum process had given greater visibility to the important, and often underappreciated, area of statistics, an understanding of which was crucial for the design and implementation of better policies across a range of sectors. Collaboration was essential in order to identify and close data gaps. Outcomes were more important than outputs, and rapid action was necessary to rectify the situation if an outcome was not on track. Local ownership was essential for the sustainability of outcomes.

20. With regard to South-South cooperation, peer-to-peer learning was a useful tool for capacity-building. It could be delivered through formal structures, such as training courses, and through more informal channels, such as professional networks, and would provide an opportunity for countries to share experiences, including on the introduction of new technologies and methodologies.

21. **Mr. De Zoysa** (Observer for Sri Lanka) said that developing countries like Sri Lanka continued to face economic challenges and the new agenda based on the Sustainable Development Goals could not become yet another burden on national budgets. Incentives and inducements must be created to foster a more positive mindset in considering investment in sustainable development as an economic advantage. Financing for development and financing for the 2030 Agenda, which were different, must be clearly defined without delay, and a transparent and inclusive framework of standards and guidelines should be provided.

22. Sri Lanka was already preparing a regulatory, institutional and standards framework as part of its commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Noting that the introduction of legislation mandating all public sector agencies in Sri Lanka to prepare sustainable development strategies, conduct audits and provide annual progress reports would require considerable capacity-building efforts, he said that greater international political commitment, capacity-building support and financing for the sustainable development agenda would help to motivate his country and strengthen its resolve.

23. **Ms. Ghartey** (Ghana) said that, while institutional strengthening was important for capacity-building, individual capacity enhancement was also vital. Any lack of capacity at the country level should be built as part of development cooperation and it should no longer be left to donor countries to implement projects.

24. **Mr. Altinörs** (Observer for Turkey) said that if international development cooperation was to be successfully implemented for the 2030 Agenda, conceptual divides must be minimized, common principles and objectives agreed, and public and private resources directed to areas where needs were greatest and capacities weakest. It should be used to help bridge gaps, in particular in least developed countries and other vulnerable contexts.

25. Turkey, for its part, had provided 0.54 per cent of its gross domestic product as ODA in 2015 and $1.5 billion of assistance to the least developed countries over the last five years. The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency provided demand-driven, tailored and context-specific development assistance in a wide range of areas in 140 countries. His country remained committed to operationalizing the technology bank for the least developed countries by the end of 2016.

26. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) said that systemic issues, such as national development cooperation efforts, must be supported by an enabling international economic environment. He asked what implications the withdrawal of certain members from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization would have for capacity development. Noting the importance of science and technology as a non-financial means of implementation, he emphasized the importance of capacity-building and training for women, including in terms of the science-policy interface.

The meeting was suspended at 4.10 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

27. *Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea) took the Chair.*

Wrap-up session: Key messages from the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum

28. **Mr. Lopes** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa), moderator, said that the world was very different to that of 20 years ago when the importance of development cooperation financing had been at its peak. Emphasis had shifted from the financing dimension to more of a partnership dimension. The framework required for the universal Sustainable Development Goals was very different to that associated with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The level of ambition was higher, as was the level of Member State involvement in defining the agenda. A more comprehensive, creative and innovative way of considering the spectrum of issues related to development was required to translate the political negotiations into practical action with a focus on important issues of a strategic nature. He asked how middle-income countries, which had proven to be incredible engines of growth, could engage in cooperation with other countries, including through the South-South perspective, notwithstanding the challenges they faced in terms of resilience.

29. **Ms. Ciuti** (General Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina), panellist, said that although Argentina was almost an upper-middle income country, it was suffering as a result of the withdrawal of ODA. No account had been taken of the fact that her country, which was making huge efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, was also engaged in South-South cooperation to help countries with a lower level of development in the region to attain the Sustainable Development Goals. It was trying to find innovative ways of working and communicating with countries of the North to address the challenge of that double burden of work. Middle-income countries should not be punished and required assistance in order to continue to move forward.

30. **Mr. Lopes** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) asked how development cooperation could be enhanced with new forms of funding, such as blended finance and partnerships.

31. **Lord McConnell** (Member of Parliament, United Kingdom), panellist, said that he was concerned that the quest for perfection was detracting from the sense of urgency required to make progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Each country would have different methods of accountability and engagement, and Governments must be made accountable at the national level for the progress made. It was important not to underestimate the scale of the challenge in delivering those Goals in the least developed countries and in fragile and conflict-affected

States. Immediate action must be taken, in particular on Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to ensure that those furthest behind were not left even further behind in 2030.

32. **Mr. Somavia** (Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile and former Co-Chair of the Independent Team of Advisors to the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council), panellist, noting that the 2030 Agenda required a stronger, better integrated and more strategic United Nations development system, recalled that the Independent Team of Advisors had been asked to consider how the United Nations development system should adapt to the 2030 Agenda.

33. One of the main challenges for development cooperation in the new era of megatrends was the need for a new way of thinking. A change in mindset was required to move from MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals, from a sectoral approach to integrated thinking, and from judging by growth to judging by sustainability. Such a mindset shift must take place among all partners. As the Secretary-General had recently said to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, Governments, local authorities, businesses, civil society and the United Nations would all have to learn to think differently.

34. There were also a variety of knowledge challenges, including in providing for the necessary policy integration between economic, social and environmental areas, developing people-centred economies, and reducing unsustainable patterns of investment and consumption. Ownership by countries and ensuring a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach were other important elements, and he had been encouraged by the willingness expressed during the Development Cooperation Forum for civil society to participate in the process.

35. **Ms. Gilmore** (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights), panellist, said that the current system, which was the product of human decisions and interventions and of relational arrangements, critically between power and powerlessness, was not equipped to deliver the universal and integrated 2030 Agenda that had been devised as a result of unprecedented public consultation. Disruptive, transformative change was therefore essential. Such a transformation would, however, remain beyond reach unless an active partnership was built with those living in the deprivation engendered by the current system and there was active engagement with those people as rights holders.

36. While there was a need to disaggregate data and learn more about inequality, it was important to remember that much could be done at very little cost to eradicate exclusion and marginalization. Discrimination, which was unlawful under international norms, inimical and antithetical to the Sustainable Development Goals, must be tackled. She called for a system that stripped out discrimination, inequality and bigotry and replaced those behaviours with people as active, engaged partners in delivering on the promise of the Goals.

37. Conviction and courage of leadership were essential if the dream of leaving no one behind was to become a reality. The international community was looking to the Council to provide the leadership to deliver the transformation required.

38. **Mr. Lopes** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) said that a person's country of citizenship also constituted a basis for discrimination, as individuals were afforded different opportunities depending on their place of birth or residence.

39. Ensuring that no one was left behind would require unprecedented ambition to address global development needs, an aim that was undermined by the persistence of challenges such as inequality, which was currently more prevalent than at the time of adoption of the MDGs. He asked Ms. Ciuti how other actors would contribute to developing an innovative approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda in Argentina.

40. **Ms. Ciuti** (General Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina) said that, as a former mayor of Buenos Aires, the current President of Argentina had particular appreciation for the role of mayors in implementing a people-centred development agenda and encouraged their ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that connection, significant efforts were being made to promote implementation of the Goals at the subnational and local levels, both with a view to strengthening local development agendas and encouraging the involvement of the local private sector.

41. In an effort to break down organizational silos, her country had appointed a council for social policy coordination, which reported directly to the President, to oversee implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in a cross-cutting manner. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina was also working to promote the Sustainable Development Goals, and initiatives were being undertaken to broaden awareness of the Goals among the population.

42. **Mr. Somavia** (Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile and former Co-Chair of the Independent Team of Advisors to the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council) said that, while countries were expected to enact transformative political change to implement the 2030 Agenda, the institutions of the United Nations development system must also evolve. In that regard, Governments were responsible for taking the critical decisions required to define the future role of the development system, including with respect to the distinction between least developed and middle-income countries and the need to ensure national ownership of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, Governments must discuss the practical difficulty of ensuring least developed countries' ownership of the Agenda when funding for development was often earmarked for specific purposes.

43. **Lord McConnell** (Member of Parliament, United Kingdom) said that committed leadership, particularly on the part of the incoming Secretary-General, would be essential for supporting Member States' delivery of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, prioritization of those living under the poorest and most extreme conditions, which would entail compromise on the part of other members of the international community, would be essential to ensure that no one was left behind. Lastly, as youth would be most affected by the outcome of the 2030 Agenda, they should play a central role in ensuring its delivery.

44. **Ms. Ulatowska** (Coordinator, Commons Cluster of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Major Group) said that the shift from a silo mentality to a more integrated approach to development cooperation would yield significant gains, inter alia, in the form of freed resources resulting from increased person-to-person-based economic exchanges and greater harmony with nature, benefits that would offset any compromises made by Member States.

45. **Ms. Matondo** (Republic of the Congo) asked whether those Member States that would be required to make compromises to ensure that no one was left behind were represented in the meeting room. Such States must be aware, for instance, of the need to ensure that African countries were equipped with the technological tools required to exploit their own natural resources and benefited from the related end products.

46. **Mr. Rahim** (Pakistan) underscored the importance of ensuring the progressive involvement of youth in the activities of the United Nations system over time.

47. **Mr. Lopes** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) asked Ms. Gilmore whether, in the absence of an integrated approach to addressing development challenges, Member States' spirit of good will to advance the 2030 Agenda could make a tangible impact.

48. **Ms. Gilmore** (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that, to address the current fragmented approach, incentive schemes must be restructured to reward collaboration within and between countries, as well as with the United Nations system. The current siloed structure, whereby each agency addressed a different development need, promoted inter-agency competition and had led to the figurative dismemberment of the human person. Placing the whole person at the centre of the development agenda would be critical to harness the potential of the planet's richest and most accessible renewable resource: its people.

49. In addition, given that innovation entailed departure from common practices, efforts must be made to create safe spaces for dissent, experimentation and failure, as well as to promote learning from the experience of failure, in order to capitalize on global creative potential.

50. **Mr. Lopes** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) asked Lord McConnell whether, in order to ensure that countries benefited from the exploitation of their natural resources, it would be more effective to strengthen contracts and legislation governing exploitation in order to curb illicit financial flows, rather than encouraging reliance on ODA. In positive terms, he asked how ODA could be invested to enhance

countries' potential to benefit from their own resources.

51. **Lord McConnell** (Member of Parliament, United Kingdom) said that responsibility on the part of the global companies benefiting from such resources was a pre-requisite for progress. In addition, targeted development cooperation must be provided to assist developing countries in establishing systems of legislation, taxation, revenue collection, monitoring and guarantees for natural resource exploitation, as well as mechanisms for punishing violations. Those efforts must be supported by adequate political will on the part of Member States to create strong institutions, such as independent judiciaries, that would promote effective regulation of natural resource exploitation.

52. **Mr. Lopes** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) asked Ms. Ciuti to provide some examples of her country's efforts to translate the 2030 Agenda into national priorities.

53. **Ms. Ciuti** (General Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina) said that, in keeping with the universal ambition and inclusive aspirations of the 2030 Agenda, Argentina would address poverty eradication as a matter of priority. By the end of 2016, the council for social policy coordination would present a national agenda for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, developed in consultation with a broad range of development actors, that would outline Argentina's six national priorities for delivering on the 2030 Agenda.

54. **Mr. Lopes** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) asked Mr. Somavia to describe the most difficult challenge to delivering on the promise of sustainable development.

55. **Mr. Somavia** (Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile and former Co-chair of the Independent Team of Advisors to the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council) said that ensuring the effective collaboration of all persons concerned in defining and monitoring policies and identifying best practices in the area of sustainable development, despite their political differences, would be essential for implementing the 2030 Agenda. That could be achieved by building true participatory democracies that would reduce the distance between people and Governments.

56. In addition, the contribution of globalization to growing poverty, inequality and the weakening of the middle class must be addressed. That would require confidence on the part of Governments to look beyond the economic policies promoted by expert institutions such as IMF and the World Bank. In particular, the incoming Secretary-General must encourage the Organization's active role in defining the economic policies necessary to achieve sustainable development.

57. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the reports of the Secretary-General on implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results (E/2016/64), trends and progress in international development cooperation (E/2016/65) and infrastructure for sustainable development for all (E/2016/70).

58. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*)

Adoption of the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2016 session of the Council (E/2016/L.24-E/HLPF/2016/L.2)

59. **The President** drew attention to the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the Council's 2016 session on the theme "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results" (E/2016/L.24-E/HLPF/2016/L.2).

60. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council), reading out a statement of programme budget implications in connection with the draft ministerial declaration, in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, recalled that, under paragraph 83 of General Assembly resolution 70/1, the Assembly had invited the President of the Economic and Social Council to conduct a process of consultations on the scope, methodology and frequency of the Global Sustainable Development Report, as well as its relation to the Sustainable Development Goals progress report, the outcome of which would be reflected in the ministerial declaration of the 2016 high-level political forum. Having met at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the ministers of the 2016 high-level political forum endorsed the outcome of the consultation process, under the terms of paragraph 22 of the draft ministerial declaration.

61. The annex to the draft ministerial declaration outlined the activities proposed in connection with the

preparation of the Global Sustainable Development Report. The resource requirements for the activities of the independent group of 15 scientists that would be established to draft the Report were based on the assumption that the group would hold meetings in New York once in 2016, twice in 2017, twice in 2018 and once in 2019, for five working days each. The travel costs were estimated at $12,000 per person, which would include $8,000 for ticket costs and $4,000 for daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses. The costs of printing and publishing the Report, which would take place in 2019, were estimated at $240,000, which included the costs for the editing, designing, e-publishing and printing requirements of the Report.

62. The Secretary-General, in the context of his report on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda (A/70/589), had proposed resources for the activities related to the preparation of the Report amounting to $720,000 for the biennium 2016-2017, of which the incorporated expenditures were itemized in paragraphs 101 (b) and 103, respectively. The General Assembly had then authorized the Secretary-General, in its resolution 70/248, to enter into commitments for the first year of implementation of the decisions, including a total amount of $360,000 for activities relating to the preparation of the Global Sustainable Development Report in 2016.

63. Should the draft declaration be adopted, resource requirements in the amount of $540,000 for 2016-2017, lower than the revised estimates proposed by the Secretary-General, and in the amount of $780,000 for 2018-2019, would arise under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budgets for the respective bienniums. The 2016 requirements of $180,000 based on the draft ministerial declaration could be accommodated within the existing commitment authority for 2016, and the related appropriation would be sought in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for 2016-2017. In accordance with established procedures, the 2017 requirements in the amount of $360,000 would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, in the context of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council. The requirements for 2018-2019 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium, and the recurrent portion of the resources would be required until 2030.

64. The resource requirements based on the draft ministerial declaration would entail a number of modifications to the recurrent outputs indicated in section 9 of the programme budget for 2016-2017 (A/70/6 (Sect.9)). Specifically, "independent group of scientists (3)" should be added to paragraph 9.72 (a) (ii) (a). In addition, "expert group meeting dedicated to the preparation of the Global Sustainable Development Report (1)" should be added to paragraph 9.72 (b) (i). Lastly, in paragraph 9.72 (b) (ii), "Global Sustainable Development Report (2)" should be reduced to "Global Sustainable Development Report (1)".

65. Presenting an oral correction to the draft ministerial declaration, she said that the word "should" in the third line of paragraph 5 of the annex should be replaced with "could".

66. **Mr. Jiménez** (Observer for Nicaragua) said that the draft ministerial declaration underscored Member States' commitment to building a peaceful world free of poverty and inequality; it should be implemented in line with the 2030 Agenda, guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In that context, Member States must work to transform the existing economic and financial architecture by changing production and consumption patterns, with a view to promoting social inclusion, equality and compassion, as well as the well-being and right to life of all people, their development and the biological diversity of the planet.

67. Nicaragua had strong reservations regarding paragraph 19 of the draft ministerial declaration, as it had chosen not to ratify the Paris Agreement, a decision that should be respected as its sovereign prerogative. It was regrettable that the spirit of consensus of General Assembly resolution 67/290 and commitment to leaving no one behind had not been upheld during negotiations on the draft ministerial declaration. Throughout the negotiations on the Paris Agreement, his country had demonstrated flexibility and solidarity with all Member States and had worked constructively to ensure that its position was properly reflected. Nicaragua would spare no effort in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

68. *The draft ministerial declaration, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

69. **Ms. Bird** (Australia), co-facilitator of the draft ministerial declaration, said that she was encouraged by the positive and constructive spirit demonstrated by delegates during the related negotiations. Member States' willingness to make difficult compromises in the spirit of consensus and the active engagement of civil society were particularly appreciated. Welcoming its adoption by acclamation, despite the objections mentioned with regard to the Paris Agreement, she hoped that the ministerial declaration would support Member States in their unified efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and to ensure that no one was left behind.

70. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru), co-facilitator of the draft ministerial declaration, said that the related negotiations had been conducted in a spirit of efficiency and transparency. Following on the initial steps taken to implement the 2030 Agenda, the text focused on the theme of leaving no one behind and outlined substantive objectives for the guidance of the high-level political forum.

71. Direct negotiations on paragraphs 7 and 19, which dealt with particularly delicate issues, had been conducted in a spirit of flexibility and compromise on the part of the delegations concerned. However, at the sixteenth meeting of the 2016 high-level political forum, one delegation had requested a vote on paragraph 19 without having participated in the related negotiations, despite having had the opportunity to do so. It had consequently disassociated itself from the consensus on that paragraph. The co-facilitators had nevertheless made every effort to achieve consensus on the final text and were satisfied with the outcome.

72. **Ms. Schomaker** (Observer for the European Union) said that the 2016 high-level political forum had attested to its capacity to enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and promote the inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The first round of national voluntary reviews had demonstrated the universality of the Agenda, including with regard to the challenges encountered by countries at all stages of development, as well as the value of peer learning. Stakeholders from, inter alia, civil society and the private sector had greatly enriched the forum's discussions by challenging conventional wisdom, and would play a critical role in the Agenda's implementation at all levels. A continued focus on the nexus between policy issues would be essential to promoting integrated approaches and cross-sectoral cooperation, breaking down silos and enabling the United Nations system to lead cohesively by example. Such coherence, bolstered by efforts to promote sustainable growth while respecting the planet's carrying capacity, and to capitalize on private sector engagement while establishing a sound regulatory framework, would be critical to ensuring that no one was left behind.

73. **Mr. Wu** Hongbo (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) concluded by saying that the high-level segment had illustrated the success of the initial steps taken to establish a robust follow-up and review framework for the 2030 Agenda, a prerequisite for its effective realization. To ensure its implementation, participants had underscored the importance of national ownership; the need for integrated policy responses across the three dimensions of sustainable development to address mounting development challenges; the critical role of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, underpinned by strong political will, consistent action and a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders; and the need for inclusive follow-up and review, as well as a United Nations development system that was aligned with the demands of the 2030 Agenda.

74. The Development Cooperation Forum had highlighted the need for international development partners to collaborate with the world's poorest and most undercapacitated countries to ensure that no one was left behind. Although more intensive and innovative efforts were required, participants had provided encouraging examples of the work done by institutions in developed and developing countries, as well as by State and non-State actors, to adapt national priorities to the 2030 Agenda and assist developing countries. They had also underscored the need to prioritize ODA commitments and capitalize on the complementary role of South-South cooperation, identifying significant gaps and opportunities in that regard. Effective data collection, convergence and disaggregation remained a common challenge, particularly for least developed countries. There had also been a strong consensus on the need to strengthen the qualitative dimension of a multilayer monitoring and accountability system for development cooperation and to mainstream multi-stakeholder partnerships and bottom-up approaches in all forms of development cooperation. All actors, including parliamentarians, should work to strengthen national ownership of

cooperation efforts aimed at achieving sustainable development. In that regard, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would continue to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Lastly, he trusted that Member States would build on the momentum of the high-level segment to make the Agenda a reality.

Closing of the segment

75. **The President** said that the high-level segment represented the culmination of the work undertaken by the entire Economic and Social Council system at its 2016 session to provide integrated policy options and recommendations, address gaps and contribute to the review of initial progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum had highlighted the need for new ways of thinking and working on the part of development stakeholders; closer examination of the interlinkages between sectors and across policy options; dismantling of silos that hindered integration; and greater involvement of people in policymaking and decision-making to strengthen outcomes and support for the implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda.

76. The global architecture for the follow-up and review of the Agenda's implementation, with the high-level political forum as its central platform, had been established. The forum had addressed the theme of leaving no one behind, inter alia, through its examination of the initial voluntary national reviews submitted, and had contributed to creating new norms and policy recommendations in the area of sustainable development through its synergy with the Economic and Social Council. The Council would continue to provide a space for stakeholders and Governments to develop substantive policy guidance for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development; conduct reviews of progress and trends in sustainable development and international cooperation; forge links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations development system; improve the response of United Nations system operational activities to changes in the development landscape; promote multi-stakeholder partnerships; promote youth participation in international dialogue on development; and enhance the Organization's response to emerging challenges and humanitarian emergencies.

77. Over the previous two years, the Development Cooperation Forum had provided valuable input on ways to leverage the potential of development cooperation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It would continue to play an essential role in the implementation and review processes, particularly in the context of the high-level political forum and the forum on financing for development follow-up, by providing a place for the exchange of fresh perspectives on new development cooperation paradigms.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.